

September 16, 2010

To: Mr. Paul Smith

The Carbon/Emery Quality Improvement Committee has been concerned with the number of CPS cases, and recidivism on those cases. This is specifically true with the category of DVRCA. What we have concluded based on the research of the data that has been provided to us by the local DCFS office is that the largest number of children who are re-victimized come from the domestic violence victim, and not the domestic violence perpetrator. These children are being abused again, but usually at the hands of a different perpetrator.

Some of the ideas that the QIC has in this regard, after meeting numerous times with the local domestic violence shelter workers and researching data, is that the perpetrators are required to receive treatment and this is tracked by the court and other agencies, and often times it is paid for by other agencies. Domestic violence victims are offered services, and many do start the process, but the follow through and financial cost placed upon them to get therapy and treatment often times become something that they just cannot afford to do. Therefore, we are submitting the following proposal.

In the local DCFS office, many employees are completing a master's degree in social work, and require some kind of on the job training. We are requesting that the local therapists supervise these workers in providing a domestic violence group for the children that have witnessed domestic violence, broken down into the following categories. The groups would be broken down into the following age groups: seven years old and under, eight to eleven years old, twelve to fifteen years old, and fifteen years old and up. Or as the local team of therapists believes would address the needs. Because the service would be provided by interns, and the local DCFS office, no costs would be incurred by the families. Hopefully, this might make it more of a resource to our families. We would recommend that this service was not held at the local DCFS office, but at an alternative site. If possible, we would recommend that an adult victim group be held at the same time.

The second proposal would be to hire a CPS/domestic violence worker specifically to handle domestic violence cases. We used to have a caseworker who went out with the CPS workers on domestic violence cases, and was able to be the support and advocate for the alleged victim from the beginning of the case, and then able to follow through with that family to assist as needed. We would recommend that the local agency see about getting someone to provide that same service.

Sincerely,
QIC Committee members